

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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21 11  
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 /144 W  
----- 120636

P R 020910Z OCT 73  
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5324  
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 7079

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, AF  
SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN: DEATH OF MAIWANDWAL

1. KABUL RADIO ANNOUNCED EVENING OCTOBER 1 THAT FORMER PRIME MINISTER MAIWANDWAL, ARRESTED SEPTEMBER 20 ON CHARGES OF ANTI-REGIME ACTIVITIES, HAD COMMITTED SUICIDE IN PRISON MORNING OCTOBER 1. REPORT SAID HE HAD HANGED HIMSELF BY MEANS OF NYLON CLOTH, BELT AND NECK TIE, APPARENTLY USING HIS BED AS MAKESHIFT GALLOWS. REPORT ADDED HE HAD DONE THIS BECAUSE "HE HAD ADMITTED PLOTTING AGAINST REPUBLICAN REGIME AND INVOLVEMENT IN FOREIGN ESPIONAGE AND COULD NOT FACE THE NATION."

2. THERE IS SPECULATION HERE THAT MAIWANDWAL WAS KILLED RATHER THAN HAVING COMMITTED SUICIDE, OR PERHAPS DIED PREMATURELY UNDER TORTURE. WE BELIEVE REGIME WOULD HAVE PREFERRED MORE PUBLIC MEANS OF EXECUTION IN ORDER PLACE FEAR IN HEARTS OF OTHER WOULD-BE CONSPIRATORS. DOES NOT THEREFORE SEEM LIKELY THAT REGIME WOULD  
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HAVE ORDERED MAIWANDWAL KILLED IN THIS FASHION. IF, HOWEVER,

EVIDENCE AGAINST MAIWANDWAL WAS, CONTRARY TO GOVERNMENT'S  
ASSERTIONS OVER PAST TEN DAYS, INCOMPLETE AND INSUFFICIENT TO  
SUPPORT DEATH SENTENCE, IT CONCEIVABLE GOVERNMENT COULD HAVE  
RESORTED TO THIS ACTION. OUR TENTATIVE ESTIMATE, BASED UPON  
REASONING RATHER THAN FACTS WHICH UNAVAILABLE, IS THAT MAIWANDWAL  
DID MANAGE COMMIT SUICIDE BUT NOT NECESSARILY FOR REASONS ASCRIBED  
BY RADIO AFGHANISTAN.  
LEWIS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 OCT 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973KABUL07079  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS LEWIS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** KABUL  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 DEC 2001  
**Review Event:**  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AFGHANISTAN: DEATH OF MAIWANDWAL  
**TAGS:** PINT, AF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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